of cases of Kala-azar during 1984, 1985 and 1986 is as under:

	1984	1985	1986
Bihar	12985	13029	11838
West Bengal	4233	4247	3718
Tamil Nadu	2	...	..
Uttar Pradesh	3	..	..
Delhi	1*	1*	4*
TOTAL	17224	17277	15560

*Imported Casses

However, only 66 deaths have been reported during 1986 as per reports received from the affected States. (Bihar-41 and West Bengal-25).

Kala-azar is a vector-brone disease caused by Sandfly. It is highly suceptible to DDT.

To check the spread of Kala-azar, the following measures are being taken:

1. The Dte. of N.M.E.P. [N.I.C.D are rendering technical guidance to the States to control the disease and undertake other remedial measures which includes house to house case finding, entomological studies, training programmes, insecticidal spray etc.

2. Required quantities of insecticides (DDT) for control of Kala-azar are being supplied to States out of NMEP budget on 50:50 cost sharing basis between States and Central Government.

3. The incidence of Kala-azar in the country is being monitored by tht Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme.

Expansion of Telecommunication Services in rural areas in M.P. & U.P.

*31. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken steps for the expansion of telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in view of long waiting lists there;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have finalised schemes for expansion of specific programmes of Postal and Telecommunication services in rural areas of U.P. and M.P.; and

(d) if so, what are the broad details of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHIR ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Steps have been taken for the expansion of telephone exchanges in

Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	Delhi
1. Waiting List as on 31-12-86	35867	50255	1739184
2. Telephone capacity added during 1985-86 and 1986-87	24581	38184	101950
3. Number of telephone connections provided during 85-86 and 86-87.	16172	30111	85021
4. Telephone capacity proposed to be added during 1987—90.	49200	80000	127000
5. Telephone connections proposed to be provided during 1987—90.	36900	60000	105000

(c) and (d) *Telecommunication Services:* Government have planned schemes for expansion of telecommunication services in rural areas through small capacity telephone exchanges and long distance public telephones (LDPTs). The details are:

	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh
1. Telephone capacity planned to be added in the 7th Plan.	14500	14000
2. Long Distance Public Telephones to be provided in 7th Plan.	700	475

(c) and (d) *Postal Services:*—An adequate number of post offices have already been set up in the rural areas of U.P. and M.P. as revealed by the following figures:-

	No. of post offices in rural areas	Average population served by a Post office	Average area served by a Post office (Sq. Kms.)
Uttar Pradesh	16,316	5575	17.76
Madhya Pradesh	9,403	4423	46.64
All-India	1,28,370	4093	24.48

However, Heads of all Postal Circles, including U.P. and M.P., have been asked to assess the need for additional post offices in rural areas, particularly, hilly, backward and tribal areas in the light of the norms formulated by the Department for the purpose. Depending upon the result of the assessments, justified proposals may be taken up with Ministry of Finance in

view of the general ban on creation/ filling up of posts. This position holds good for Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as well as other States/ Union Territories.

Accident of Rock Fort Express due to bomb explosion

*32. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI J.P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 22 passengers were killed and 64 injured when eight bogies of the Madras-Tiruchirapalli Rock Fort Express fell into the Maruthaiyaru river between Ariyalur and Sillakkudi, following a time bomb explosion on the Marudayar railway bridge in March 1987;

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in connection therewith; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) In this accident 26 persons lost their lives and 55 sustained serious injuries.

(b) According to information received from Tamil Nadu Government, one person has been arrested.

(c) Track patrolling and guarding of vulnerable bridges on certain sections is being done. However, law and order is a State subject.

Training of Villagers in Avurvedic and Unani System of Medicines in the Tribal Areas

*33. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up institutions which can introduce the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines in tribal areas and tarin villagers in Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine to enable them to produce medicines by using herbal plants and vegetation locally available to provide cheap treatment to ppor tribals; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what steps are being taken by Government to provide medical assistance to poor tribals and villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The tribal areas are rich in herbs and have an ancient folk tradition to use these herbs to treat many diverse ailments. We are concerned and committed to preserve this tradition and exploit this folk knowledge for the benefit of all. To this end, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha is engaged in collecting folk remedies of animal and plant origin practiced in some of the tribal areas. However, the Government do not feel the need to set up separate institutions to introduce Ayurveda and Unani system of medicines specifically in these areas.

(b) Medical facilities are being provided in rural backward and tribal areas of the country by establishing primary Health Centres, sub-Centres etc. Efforts are being made to establish a Primary Health Centre and a Sub-Centre to cover a population of 20,000 and 3000 respectively in tribal/hilly areas instead of 30,000 and 5000 respectively in the non-tribal/non-hilly areas.

Chemical Testing Laboratories Lacking Sophisticated Equipment

*34. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chemical testing laboratories attached to medical stores and depots of Governmeant are not sphisticated enough and well equipped;